

Message Text

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EA/ANZ-JMORRISSEY (PHONE)

TREASURY-MR. MORTON (PHONE)

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R 201939Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

UNCLAS STATE 055628

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AS, CFED (HANSLOW, PATRICIA)

SUBJECT: FORGED TREASURY CHECKS

REF: MELBOURNE 285, 182 AND PREVIOUS

1. CASE STILL UNDER TREASURY INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING CHECK CLAIMS DIVISION US SECRET SERVICE HAS BEEN ASKED TO SUBMIT REPORT ON COLLUSION OF INDIVIDUAL(S) IN TAHITI IN ALLEGED FORGERIES. USSS INFORMED DEPT MARCH 18 FULL SETTLEMENT REPORT WAS PREPARED AND SENT TO TREASURY RECENTLY AND IS PROBABLY IN TRANSIT TO CLAIMS DIVISION.

2. TREASURY RECORDS SHOW TEN CHECKS INVOLVED IN CLAIM, ALL REPRESENTING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS. CHECK DATES RANGE FROM AUG. 23, 1966 TO MAY 3, 1967. AMOUNT OF INITIAL CHECK DOLLARS 982 AND REMAINING CHECKS FOR DOLLARS 43.20 EACH.

3. MRS. HANSLOW'S CLAIM MAY BE COMPROMISED BY DELAYED REPORT OF SUSPECTED FORGERIES. WHILE SCS'S FILES INDICATE SHE AND POST HAVE BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH SSA SINCE 1967, TREASURY FILES SHOW THEY RECEIVED SUBJECT'S CLAIM FOR STOP PAYMENT AND ISSUANCE OF SUBS IN APRIL 1973. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON TREASURY'S ABILITY TO RECLAIM FUNDS FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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BANK WHICH ACCEPTED CHECKS IS SIX YEARS AND 180 DAYS. IN

FACT, BANK WHICH CASHED MRS. HANSLOW'S CHECKS IN DETROIT,

MICHIGAN HAS SO FAR REFUSED TO REIMBURSE TREASURY FOR
VALUE OF FORGED CHECKS.

4. TREASURY'S INABILITY TO OBTAIN REIMBURSEMENT FROM
BANK MAY NOT NECESSARILY INVALIDATE MRS. HANSLOW'S CLAIM
FOR SUBSTITUTE CHECKS, HOWEVER TREASURY MUST DECIDE ON
MERITS OF CASE WHETHER SHE SUBMITTED HER NON-RECEIPT CLAIM
IN A QUOTE TIMELY FASHION UNQUOTE AS IT DIDN'T MEET THE
SIX YEAR-SIX MONTH DEADLINE.

5. HOPEFULLY REPORT WILL CLARIFY IDENTITY OF FORGER(S)
AND THEREBY ASSIST TREASURY TO RECLAIM FUNDS FROM DETROIT
BANK DESPITE EXPIRATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS. OTHER-
WISE TREASURY IS COMPELLED TO ABSORB LOSS AND ADJUDICATE
MRS. HANSLOW'S CLAIM ON QUESTION OF WHETHER SHE SUBMITTED
A TIMELY REPORT OF NON-RECEIPT.

6. DEPT WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE CASE THROUGH CHECK
CLAIMS DIVISION AND REPORT DEVELOPMENT TO POST. FYI
CHECK CLAIMS FILES INDICATE SEVERAL PRIVATE INQUIRIES
RECEIVED ON PROGRESS OF CASE INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS FROM
RALPH NADER AND AUSTRALIAN EMB IN WASHINGTON (LATEST EMB
NOTE DATED DEC. 1973). KISSINGER

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